

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~**EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY**

C/HK-AA 17563

NSS review
completed.

1972 APR 15 PM 12:31

OO YEKADLC

[REDACTED] #533 3491645

ZNY 40WSH

O 151611Z DEC 72 ZYH ZFF-1

FM WHITE HOUSE

TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, ROME

ZCZC

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY WH29393

[REDACTED]

DECEMBER 12, 1972

TO: AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

THE SECRETARY HAS INFORMED HALDEMAN THAT YOU ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SAIGON ASSIGNMENT. AS HAIG MENTIONED TO YOU, THE PRESIDENT DEFINITELY WANTS YOU IN SAIGON SINCE HE FEELS HE MUST HAVE SOMEONE THERE IN WHOM HE HAS COMPLETE AND TOTAL CONFIDENCE. THE PRESIDENT ALSO CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON BE ONE WITH WHOM HE CAN WORK DIRECTLY AND IN WHOM HE CAN PLACE FULL PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY.

IN CONTRAST TO THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE VIA THE DEPARTMENT, HAIG TELLS ME THAT YOU WOULD BE READY AND WILLING TO TAKE ON THIS CRUCIAL AND UNREWARDING TASK. HE ALSO HAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THE RANK THAT YOU WOULD CARRY IN ASSUMING THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THAT IS A MATTER WHICH IS EASILY SOLVED.

PLEASE ADVISE ME OF YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE IT ON, THE CHANGEOVER SHOULD OCCUR TOWARD THE LATTER PART OF JANUARY AND WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A DISCUSSION HERE WITH ME IN WASHINGTON TO BE SURE THAT YOU WOULD PROCEED TO SAIGON WITH A FULL AND COMFORTABLE APPRECIATION OF PRECISELY WHAT WOULD BE EXPECTED OF YOU.

WARM REGARDS.

JSD

#333

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 712 DEC 15 PM 12:33
 WHITE HOUSE
 SITUATION ROOM
 25X1K1